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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/700,473	11/05/2003	Kazuhiko Sueoka	P69220US0	7745

136 7590 06/01/2006

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC  
400 SEVENTH STREET N.W.  
SUITE 600  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

EXAMINER
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WACHTEL, ALEXIS A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1764

DATE MAILED: 06/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/700,473	Applicant(s) SUEOKA ET AL.	
	Examiner Alexis Wachtel	Art Unit 1764	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***Detailed Action***

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4,11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4,539,185 to Muller et al.

With respect to claim 1, a method for treating an object with a gas, comprising: a step of putting object a hermetically sealed treatment section filled with a treatment gas (occurs in 3); a treatment step of treating the put object with the gas at a desired position in a gas atmosphere in the treatment section for a desired time (occurs in 3); a step of discharging the released treated object from the treatment section after the treatment step (discharge facilitated by 16,12,17); and a conveying step of conveying the treated object discharged from the treatment section (discharge facilitated by 16,12,17).

With respect to claim 2, wherein the treatment step comprises: a first treatment the hermetically step of treating the object put in sealed treatment section with the gas the desired position section for the desired time; and the gas atmosphere in the treatment second treatment step of moving the object in the treatment section of the gas atmosphere to treat the object with the gas again time, after completion the desired position for the desired the first treatment step

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(Examiner notes that multiple treatments occur in 3 since the object is being treated at multiple locations.

With respect to claim 3, a reaction apparatus for treating an object with a gas, comprising: a treatment section (3) which includes at least a treatment gas injection section (7), an inlet (1) of the object and an outlet of the treated object, has a structure (3) in which the object is automatically conveyed from the inlet to the outlet, and treats the object with the gas in a hermetically sealed space (3 defines sealed space); and a conveying mechanism (Col 2, lines 60-62) for conveying the treated object from an object outlet position of the treatment section to the outside of the apparatus, wherein the treatment section comprises a mechanism (Col 2, lines 60-62) for holding the object a gas atmosphere in the treatment section in a fixed place for a desired time (Examiner notes that the mechanism is capable of holding the object in the a fixed placed for a desired time).

With respect to claim 4, wherein the treatment section comprises the mechanism (Col 2, lines 60-62) for holding the object at the fixed place in the gas atmosphere in the treatment section for the desired time, and a mechanism (12,17) for moving or swinging the object to prevent unevenness of the treatment.

With respect to claim 11, wherein the outlet side of the treatment section and one end side of the conveying mechanism facing the outlet side are positioned in a desired liquid which has filled a water tank (5).

With respect to claims 12-14, the instant claims do not further limit the

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structure of the claimed apparatus and are given no patentable weight.

With respect to claim 15, a feeding mechanism 1 and a pressing roller (17) disposed the vicinity of the object inlet (2) to forcibly feed the object through the object inlet by holding it there between, wherein the pressing roller is adapted to be separated (Examiner notes that the roller 17 is capable of being separated from 1).

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 5-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With respect to claim 5, the relied on art does not teach at least two operation pieces as claimed. It would not have been obvious to have provided such operation pieces at the time of the invention. With respect to claim 8, the relied on art does not teach at the operation piece as claimed. It would not have been obvious to have provided such an operation piece at the time of the invention. Claims 6-7,9-10 depend on the independent claims.

### ***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alex Wachtel whose telephone number is 571-272-1455. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:30am to 6:30pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Glenn Caldarola, can be reached at (571)-272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see

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<http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'G' followed by a wavy line.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Glenn Calderola'.

Glenn Calderola  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 1700